

### REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 26, 2004. Claims 1, 3 to 7, 9 to 15, 17 to 19, 21 to 24, 26 to 29, 31 to 34, 36 to 39, 41 and 42 remain in the application, with Claims 2, 8, 16, 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 having been canceled. Claims 1, 7, 15, 19, 23, 28, 33 and 38 the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The drawings were objected to for an informality. A Replacement Sheet for Figure 5 is being submitted concurrently herewith. The Replacement Sheet corrects a typographical error in column 509 to change "Updatable Deice Address" to read -- Updateable Device Address--. Approval of the Replacement Sheet is respectfully requested.

Claims 4, 22 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for alleged unclarity. The rejections are traversed and the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in light of the following comments.

The Office Action alleges that subject matter of Claims 4, 22 and 23 is unclear since the Examiner did not understand the meaning of the claimed "request transmitting step of transmitting a request to transmit said device information to said management server to another device." Applicant wishes to point out that the foregoing claimed step can be seen to correspond to the process described with regard to Fig. 14, et seq. in which the device 430 transmits a request message to the substitute device 1440 for the substitute device 1440 to transmit the device information of the device 430 to the management server 420. Thus, Applicants submit that the claims are clear on their face, and when read in light of the specification. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 112, second paragraph, rejections is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 3, 5, 7 to 9, 11, 15 to 17 and 19 to 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,076,106 (Hamner), and Claims 4, 6, 10, 12 to 14, 18 and 22 to 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Hamner in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,266,693 (Onaga). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns managing of device information for network devices. According to the invention, a plurality of types of device information is transmitted to a management server for managing the network devices. The plurality of types of device information may be static information, semi-static information and dynamic information, where the static information may be transmitted in accordance with a power-on of the device, and the semi-static and dynamic information may be transmitted in accordance with a change in status of the device. The device information may also be transmitted by the device itself, or may be transmitted by another device in response to a request transmitted by the device to the other device for the other device to transmit the device information to the management server. As a result, the device information of network devices can be readily managed by a server, and if a power failure were to occur in the device for which the device information is to be transmitted, a substitute device can transmit the device information instead.

Referring specifically to the claims, amended independent Claim 1 is a method of processing device information in a network system in which a management server for managing the device information and various other devices are connected, comprising a transmitting step of transmitting a plurality of different types of device information to management server at predetermined timings, respectively, wherein the plurality of different types of device information are static information, semi-static

information, and dynamic information, and wherein, in the transmitting step, the static information is transmitted to the management server in accordance with a power-on of the device, and the semi-static information and the dynamic information are transmitted to the management server in accordance with a change in status of the device.

Amended independent Claims 7, 15 and 19 are apparatus, recording medium, and computer program claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 1.

Amended independent Claim 23 is a method of processing device information in a network system in which a management server for managing device information and various other devices are connected, comprising a request transmitting step of transmitting, from one of the various devices to another one of the various devices, a request that a plurality of types of device information of the one device that transmitted the request be transmitted from the another device to the management server at predetermined different timings, a receiving step of receiving by the another device the request transmitted by the one device in the request transmitting step, and a device information transmitting step of transmitting, from the another device to the management server, the plurality of types of device information of the one device that transmitted the request at the predetermined different timings in accordance with the received request.

Amended independent Claims 28, 33 and 38 are apparatus, computer program, and recording medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 23.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 1, 7, 15, 19, 23, 28, 33 and 38. More particularly, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of a

device transmitting a plurality of different types of device information to a management server at predetermined timings, respectively, wherein the plurality of different types of device information are static information, semi-static information, and dynamic information, and wherein, the static information is transmitted to the management server in accordance with a power-on of the device, and the semi-static information and the dynamic information are transmitted to the management server in accordance with a change in status of the device (Claims 1, 7, 15 and 19), or at least the feature of one device transmitting to another device a request that a plurality of types of device information of the one device be transmitted from the another device to a management server at predetermined different timings, and the another device transmitting to the management server the plurality of types of device information of the device that transmitted the request at the predetermined different timings in accordance with the received request (Claims 23, 28, 33 and 38).

Hamner is merely seen to disclose a system for managing network devices, whereby a management server 12 implements control software that gathers information, either periodically or in response to a user command, about all devices connected on the network in order to generate a network map. The management server can perform various tasks on each of the devices once they have been discovered by the management server. For example, the management server includes a control module that performs discovery operations to find devices on the network, and once the devices have been found, a user can perform operations on the devices such as to reboot computers on the network, monitor print queues of printers on the network, and executing a remote virus scan. (See column 3, lines 31 to 62, and column 6, lines 3 to 18.) Thus, while the control module discovers devices and obtains device information, Applicants fail to see where any of the devices transmit a plurality of different types of device information to a management server at

predetermined timings, respectively, wherein the plurality of different types of device information are static information, semi-static information, and dynamic information, and wherein, the static information is transmitted to the management server in accordance with a power-on of the device, and the semi-static information and the dynamic information are transmitted to the management server in accordance with a change in status of the device. Accordingly, amended independent Claims 1, 7, 15 and 19 are not believed to be anticipated by Hamner.

Hamner is also not seen to disclose anything with regard to one of the network devices transmitting to another device a request that a plurality of types of device information of the one device be transmitted from the another device to a management server at predetermined different timings, and the another device transmitting to the management server the plurality of types of device information of the device that transmitted the request at the predetermined different timings in accordance with the received request (Claims 23, 28, 33 and 38).

Onaga is seen to disclose a multifunction peripheral 110a that determines its operating status and transmits status information to a host 110b, whereby the host 110b transmits the status information to a file server 120. As seen in Figure 5, the status information is only transmitted to the host when the host requests an update of the status information (step 560). Thus, while Onaga may transmit its status information to an intermediary device (host 110b), which then transmits the information to the file server 120, this process is simply different from the present invention. In this regard, in Onaga, the host initiates the request for updated status information of the MFP, whereby the MFP responds and the host passes the information on to the file server. In contrast, in the present invention, the MFP would initiate the process by transmitting a request to the host

for the host to transmit the device information of the MFP to the server, and the transmitting process would be performed by the host at predetermined different timings. Thus, Onaga is believed to operate opposite the present invention. Accordingly, Claims 23, 28, 33 and 38 would not have been obvious over a combination of Hamner and Onaga.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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